

# Open house event welcomed residents into new facility

By: Brian Byrne

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By Brian Byrne  
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The dedication was held Saturday morning for the recently completed addition and renovations to the Strongsville Police Department headquarters and Mike Kalinich, Sr., City Council Chambers. A large crowd of residents joined city leaders in the ribbon cutting ceremony for the facility located at the center of town, 18688 Royalton Road. Mayor Thomas Perciak served as master of ceremonies.

"Today, Strongsville police officers are provided with a building that will house one of the finest police facilities our country can offer," he said. "I've said this before, and I'll say it again, providing public safety to our community is our number one priority, and will continue to be our priority. This new facility reaffirms our pledge to public safety, and will help deliver the safety you all deserve."

The revamped headquarters is in the same location as the former one, at the intersection of Pearl and Royalton roads, adjacent to the town commons. Police chief Charles Goss spoke highly of the facility, stating it "has already dramatically improved the efficiency and effective-



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Mike Kalinich, Sr., delivers his remarks during Saturday's dedication ceremony for the revamped Strongsville Police Department Headquarters and Mike Kalinich, Sr., City Council Chambers.

ness of our operations."

"Gone is the waste that was associated with paying other cities to house our prisoners, while officers were pulled from you neighborhoods to shuttle them. No longer will we have to rent storage space for property and evidence, or lease time at an out-of-town firing range, and then pay officers to come in for training," he said. "We won't have to watch our specialized vehicles deteriorate while parked outside in the Cleveland weather. And never again will we be forced to interview the victim of a heinous crime in our break room. This facility will make such a difference."

City council approved the

resolution to name its chambers after Kalinich in September as recognition for his decades of involvement in the community. He was joined by many family members during the ceremony, at which he stated the distinction far exceeds any trophy to be simply placed on a shelf.

"To have the family name on the heartbeat of the city, the council chambers, is really beyond that," he said. "... I can't tell you how honored I am."

State representative Matt Patten (D-18) and state senator Tom Patton (R-24) were in attendance, with both informing Kalinich that he has also been officially recognized by

their respective legislative bodies.

The ceremony was followed by guided tours of the facility. A steady stream of curious residents made their way through the building, as representatives of the police department proudly displayed the updates.

Sue Hawk's husband, Donald, is a retired captain with the Strongsville force.

"He would be so impressed and amazed," she said of the new headquarters. "I think he would just be in awe."

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Strongsville Police Officer Greg Drlik guides residents on a tour of the new Strongsville Police Department Headquarters on Saturday.